



# Godalming Junior School

## School Dog Risk Assessment

### Introduction

Digby is to be Godalming Junior's School Dog.

The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding. However, we understand, as school, that the presence of a dog on the premises is not without risk. This risk assessment is intended to identify and minimise the risks to children, staff, property and the dog.

Mrs Kate Wilkinson, visited the home of Digby's mother many times each week to ensure that the temperament of the mother was suitable for interaction with children and Digby was chosen specifically for his docile nature. Digby has been handled by Mrs. Wilkinson and her family since he was a few days old.

Digby lives with Mrs Wilkinson in her home and will be introduced to the school environment and the children gradually. The local veterinarian practice has thoroughly checked Digby for any illnesses and is responsible for his vaccination programme. There are no diseases that could be caught from Digby as he is kept up to date with immunisations including rabies and his worming treatment is in line with European vet guidelines. Both the school and vets' surgery keep a register of his annual health check.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with Digby is invited to inform the school of their wishes. This risk assessment will be reviewed annually and the school senior leadership team will evaluate the impact of a school dog on a regular basis.

Hazard	Risk	Risk 1-5 *	Likelihood 1-5*	Control Measures
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children.	Child scratched by Dog	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digby will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises.</li> <li>Pupils are never left with the dog unsupervised.</li> <li>Digby will always be on a lead when he is out of his room.</li> <li>Digby will be trained not to jump up or mouth the children.</li> <li>Pupils will be taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to whole school during assemblies, form time and PSHE lessons.</li> <li>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent Digby from chasing them. (i.e. stand still, cross arms)</li> <li>Digby will undergo formal training from the age of 12 weeks with an experienced local trainer. Some pupils will be involved in both on and off site training (with parental permissions) and along with the schools' primary handlers, continue to reinforce positive training strategies in a controlled area throughout the week.</li> <li>Digby will undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment, this area of training with allow future reading</li> </ul>
	Child bitten by Dog	4	2	

KEY: 1- Low risk; 3 - Medium risk of injury; 5 - High risk of injury



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				<p>or nurture intervention to involve him in a calming/therapeutic manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff have been introduced to the dog and the expectations (dos and don'ts) of having a school dog.</li> <li>Digby will attend a dog groomer regularly to make sure his claws are kept short.</li> </ul>
The dog gets loose from his pen or from his lead.		1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Digby gets loose from his pen the teacher on duty will call for a designated staff member who will come and put the dog back in his pen.</li> <li>There are five members of staff who will be called upon in the event of the dog getting loose or if he needs attention at any other time, they are:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Adam Samson (Head Teacher).</li> <li>Mrs Jackie Farrow (HLTA).</li> <li>Mrs Louise Munz (School Bursar)</li> <li>Mrs Kate Wilkinson (SENCo)</li> <li>Mrs Jo Wright (office Manager)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
Dog hair causing allergies	Children have allergic reactions	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to introduction of Digby to school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept on the school records).</li> <li>Children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog in a controlled environment and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.</li> <li>Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog.</li> </ul>
Children getting germs from the dog.	Children/s staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should Digby defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner, if required the area will then be disinfected with an appropriate animal disinfectant.</li> <li>All immunisations are kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme.</li> <li>Flea and tick treatment is carried out at monthly intervals.</li> <li>Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines at 3 monthly intervals.</li> </ul>
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep	School unable to afford ongoing cost of day to day upkeep or medical bills	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digby is the responsibility of Mrs Wilkinson she is financially responsible for all his care and day to day costs.</li> <li>Digby is the responsibility of Mrs Wilkinson outside of school hours.</li> </ul>
Claim is made against school re: behaviour of the dog.	School not adequately covered financially			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs Wilkinson, via Pet Plan Insurance, insures the dog.</li> <li>The certificate is kept in school office and is renewed annually.</li> <li>The school has public liability insurance.</li> </ul>

Written by: Kate Wilkinson 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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